

SEEKING GHOST HE TOOK A LIFE.

Hezekiah Coates Explains
the Corbin Shooting.

HAD THE GUN READY FOR ACTION.

The Boy's Intended Victim a Negro
Terrorizer of the Neighborhood—
Playful Threat on Meeting the
Girl Preceded the Tragedy.

A loaded, old-fashioned, double-barreled shotgun of the blunderbuss type, with which Hezekiah Coates, a jockanym of fourteen years, sallied forth from his home to run down a "ghost," in the form of a negro who had terrorized his mother and other colored women in the neighborhood when they went abroad after dusk, was used in the murder of Carrie Corbin, the fourteen-year-old girl who was fatally shot Thursday night at Garfield, a small settlement near Anacostia.

Ready for the Ghost.
Young Coates had cocked the shotgun before leaving his home, and on meeting the Corbin girl and her ten-year-old brother he in a spirit of fun told them to throw up their hands. Forgetting that he had cocked the loaded weapon, he pulled the trigger, and the Corbin girl became the target for its contents. The shot entered her left breast and passed through her body.

Ran Home After Being Shot.
Following the gun's report the injured girl ran to the home of her aunt, Agnes Butts, while young Coates ran to the home of a neighbor, Mrs. Kate Washington, where his mother was visiting. There he deposited the fowling piece and left the house, but returned later and took the gun to his own home, located about 200 yards from the place where he met the Corbin girl and her brother. The girl, on reaching the board walk leading to the front door of her aunt's house, fell bleeding and dying. The spark of life had fled when assistance reached her. The fact that the girl ran when Coates fired the gun caused him to have not the least apprehension that she had been wounded.

Returning From Rehearsal.
The girl and her brother were returning from a rehearsal for a Christmas entertainment, in which she was to take part. In her hand she held a piece of paper containing the following verse:
"I think this is a lovely day,
I am glad that Christ was born;
I would like to do something for him
This blessed Christmas morn."
This was what she was to have recited at the entertainment. A piece of paper, riddled with shot and bloodstained, was found near the scene of the tragedy shortly after the accident.

Search for a Clue.
Search for a clue as to the person who had taken the young girl's life was resumed yesterday morning. The officers of the sub-police station at Anacostia being assisted by Detectives Miller, Peck and Lacy, of Police Headquarters, who were detailed on the case by Captain Boardman.

Ernest Jones, a colored boy, and Paul Johnson, who had been gunning Thursday afternoon, were arrested on suspicion. A portion of the paper used in the charge that struck the girl was found by Officer W. E. Stewart, of the sub-station, and this satisfied him that the weapon was a double-barreled shotgun, and not a breech-loader, the type of fowling piece with which the Johnson boy was armed.

Contes Confesses the Deed.
Shortly before noon yesterday Thomas Jefferson, a colored veteran, who was also at Mrs. Kate Washington's house when the Coates boy came in and deposited the gun, reported the incident to the police, and the investigation of this clue resulted in his arrest by Officer McCormack, of the sub-station, who brought his youthful prisoner to the station on horseback. On reaching the station Contes made a clean breast of the whole affair to Detective Lacy in the presence of Sergeant Anderson and Policemen McCormack and Schuyler.

Sent to the House of Detention.
Contes was sent from Police Headquarters to the House of Detention, where he will be kept pending the Coroner's inquest. The Coroner viewed the body Thursday night and ordered it removed to the morgue. An inquest will be held at 11 o'clock this morning.

Another Anti-Anarchy Bill.
Judge Crumpacker, of Indiana, yesterday introduced a bill making an attempt on the life of the President a capital offense, and Mr. Cassel, of Pennsylvania, introduced one providing for a constitutional amendment giving Congress the right to pass anti-anarchy laws.

Ocean Steamship Movements.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Arrived: Sidra, Hamburg; Boston, Bristol. Arrived out: Trave, from New York, at Genoa.

A PROTEST FROM ENGLAND. Proposed German Tariff Viewed With Grave Apprehension.

LONDON, Dec. 13.—The Marquis of Lansdowne, Foreign Secretary, has communicated through Sir F. C. Lascelles, the British Ambassador at Berlin, a memorial to Baron von Richthofen, the German Foreign Minister, from the British chambers of commerce expressing their alarm at the proposed increase in the German tariff, and believing that it will be injurious to both countries.

At the same time the Ambassador represented the grave apprehensions with which the proposals were regarded by Great Britain.

He said he earnestly hoped that the representations of the chambers of commerce would be met with consideration in the best interests of mutual commercial relations.

PRESENT LAWS DENOUNCED.

The Gold Commission Again in Session in Johannesburg.

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 13.—The gold commission met today in the chamber of mines, all the members being present. A considerable number of persons listened to the proceedings.

Mr. Tucker, a prominent surveyor, testified in answer to a question by the chairman, he said that should be the hindrance of prospecting on crown or private lands, but reasonable safeguards should be established to protect the owners of the lands.

A hundred claims, at least, should be given to a discoverer. The present prospecting licenses, the witness said, pressed heavily on the prospector.

A Mr. Lovey said that prospectors had no chance under the present law. He did not see why the State should give away valuable rights simply because, by accident, gold existed on certain areas. He also thought that allowing indiscriminate panning of known valuable ground by the public was bad in principle.

WANT MAJOR CLARK TO REMAIN A MEMBER.

THEOSOPHISTS MAKE REQUEST.

Desire Him to Remain in the Blavatsky Branch, Even Though He Is Not Able to Retain the Presidency—Committee Named.

Despite the resignation of Major James Albert Clark from the presidency of the Blavatsky Branch, Theosophical Society of America, which was presented at the regular meeting on Thursday night, the members will make an effort to have Major Clark retain his membership in the society, even though they fail to persuade him to reconsider his resignation of the presidency.

A Committee Named.
To this end a committee comprising H. H. Bergmann and T. C. Sullivan was appointed to wait on Major Clark. The instructions given to the committee were to have Major Clark reconsider his resignation, and in the event of his refusing, to urge him to retain his membership in the society. The committee will report at the next regular meeting, which will be held next Thursday night.

Resignation a Surprise.
"Major Clark's resignation was a great surprise to all of the members of the Blavatsky Branch," said Miss Eulalia A. Colcord, the secretary, to a Times reporter. "Every possible effort will be made to have Major Clark retain his membership in the society, even though he does not retain the presidency. Further than this I have no desire to discuss the matter at present."

PALACE BUILDINGS BURNED. Attempt Made on Occasion of Chinese Empress' Birthday.

LONDON, Dec. 13.—A despatch to the "Standard" from Shanghai says that on the occasion of the Empress Dowager's birthday some members of a secret society set fire to the palace at Kaifeng. Two buildings were destroyed.

This, it is believed, explains General Young Li's desire to hasten to Peking.

SENTENCES AT CAPE TOWN. Nine Persons Fined and Imprisoned by the Military Court.

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 13.—The sentences of nine persons convicted by a military court were publicly pronounced yesterday afternoon. All were condemned to terms of imprisonment and to pay fines.

John Shoenman, a member of the Legislative Assembly, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and to pay a fine of £200. If the fine is not paid he will be imprisoned for a year in lieu thereof.

This, it is believed, explains General Young Li's desire to hasten to Peking.

Wireless System for Russian Ships. ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 13.—The navy department has decided to fit Russian warships with wireless telegraph apparatus. The system to be installed is that invented by Prof. Popoff.

STILL GROPING IN THE DARK.

No Solution of the Assault
on Mrs. Dennis.

VICTIM HAS A CHANCE FOR LIFE.

All Hope of Clearing Up the Mystery
Centred on Her Recovery
—Theories of Detectives Fail to
Produce Results.

"No theory appeals to me in the mystery of the assault upon Mrs. Ada Gilbert Dennis. Nothing yet done brings up a plausible clue. I have examined the premises; have taken part in the investigation. A motive for the crime is not found. It must be discovered. If the case is to be cleared up, no human reasoning fits this mystery. A solution may only lie in the recovery of Mrs. Dennis. All manner of suggestions have failed, as have efforts by those interested in the investigation."—(Assistant United States District Attorney Taggart, on the famous assault case.)

Thus is stated the position of the authorities, after days of enquiry into the knotty problem, as to the perpetrator of the crime. No arrest has been made, no one is under suspicion.

A Fighting Chance for Life.

The victim of the assault, which may prove a tragedy, lies at Garfield Hospital. Her condition is slightly improved. She now has a fighting chance for life. Her physicians and nurses alone see her. Yesterday her sister, Mrs. Dunn, of 112 D Street northwest, stood at the door of the sick room, but was not allowed to enter. She was not recognized by the patient.

Yesterday at noon Judge W. B. Fleming, personal friend of Mrs. Dennis, Chicago lawyer, and a resident of Louisville, Ky., departed from this city. He took a Pennsylvania train for the West. Business of a pressing nature called him away. He had come to Washington on receipt of news of the mystery which involved his friend. He was more than interested in the crime, yet nothing that he could say has enlightened the police. To Judge Fleming, as to everyone, the assault presents phases almost impossible of solution.

Judge Fleming's Statement.

At the railway station Judge Fleming said: "I am going away because of necessity. Mrs. Dennis may recover to clear up this mystery. If she does not it may never be solved. I have known the woman for twelve years. I have advised her on business matters, that is all. What little I know about her past I have told to the authorities."

With no clue, no plausible theory, the detectives grope in the dark. For weeks to other lines to follow the trail again turn sadly to the overcoat and apron found Thursday in the sewer corner of Thirtieth and N Streets northwest. These garments have been examined, and no blood stains found upon them. Nevertheless the owner of each article is to be hunted down by the detectives. It has been ascertained that a merchant on Seventh Street, not far from H Street, sold the coat. It was one of a lot of twenty-five coats of like pattern. The merchant in question has been appealed to, but he is uncertain as to the purchaser of the particular coat found in the sewer.

Captain Boardman Has a Theory.

It is argued by Captain Boardman, who directs the investigation into the mystery of the coat, that if the owner is discovered, and it is found also that such person known or formerly had any dealings with Mrs. Dennis, of whatever nature, a clue may be obtained from the particular individual thus pointed out. It is a vague theory at best, as is admitted by all.

In the game of chance, the detectives played yesterday at random. Ned Weeden, a veteran, and his partner, Brown, visited a score of people to clear their names of the case. They carried out their men did too. Detective Helms spent much time at the hospital. Detective McNamee waited for something to turn up. He said he had no new theory, and that the theories he had not passed out very well. He was willing to receive suggestions if they were good ones. He regretted much that one of his ideas somehow got into print.

Working Hard on the Case.
"There is nothing doing on this case yet. It will come out, however. I am confident it will. All we want is a start, on which we can hunt out the solution of this mystery. We may get this at any time. We are seeing hundreds of people daily."

Among those interviewed yesterday by the detectives was a negro named "Curry," employed at an uptown club. Curry once worked for Mrs. Dennis. He has known her about four years. He says he knows of no possible clue which might bring about a solution of the mystery. A white man who is said to have passed the home of Mrs. Dennis at 3 o'clock Tuesday morning last is wanted for a talk by the detectives. They think he may tell something of interest in the case.

Piano Stool Not the Weapon.

More than one detective doubts whether the piano stool top was really the weapon with which Mrs. Dennis was murderously assaulted. It is quite likely, such men say, that the assailant used another weapon, taking it away with him. In such case he might have stained the top of the piano stool with blood merely as a trick to throw the police off the track. These detectives still hold to the belief that the stool was the weapon. One officer puts it in this way:

"A blow with such an instrument as the piano stool, especially if it was wielded by a man, would have crushed in the skull of a high victim. A high victim, on the other hand, however blunt, would likely have caused such wounds as Mrs. Dennis suffered. This would be especially probable if a woman struck a man with it."

In the parlor of the Dennis residence was gathered the usual family party last night. Mrs. Jane A. Dennis, mother-in-law of the wounded woman, had as a visitor Mrs. Kelly, wife of the druggist, corner of Twelfth and H Streets northwest. Smith Winchell, a lodger in the house, and others were also there.

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We have often told you of the savings you make by buying Diamonds here—the savings effected first by our being direct importers of Diamonds, and after that the largest sellers of Diamonds in this section of America. We make a conservative claim to save you 30 per cent on any Diamond purchase you make.

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Another important consideration at Christmas time. You don't need to pay cash for your purchases of Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry, &c., unless you wish. Our offer of credit is open to you. We'll open an account with you and you can pay it off weekly or monthly, as is most convenient. It's the easy, convenient way to liquidate a bill. You never feel it. Think the proposition over. Make your selections now and avoid the big crowds.

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seen last night at his office, 805 Twelfth Street northwest.

"I have attended Mrs. Dennis as a physician for ten years," he said. "In the first place, I want to say, in view of the circumstances of this case, that should the recovery there is not the slightest doubt that she will make a statement implicating somebody in the attack upon her. She is a woman of strong mind and good physical development. Mainly to this she owes the struggle she has been able to make for life. A less vigorous woman would have succumbed under the injuries."

His Patient's Condition.
"Now," added Dr. Atkinson, "I have no theory to advance as to the assailant of Mrs. Dennis. Of her condition, I can say only this: She has a fighting chance for life. Today I dressed the wounds, having to remove the bandages from her head. There appeared no inflammation. No unfavorable symptoms have yet appeared. Tonight Mrs. Dennis is a little better. Her injuries are yet most serious, of course."

Edwin B. Hay, the lawyer, from whom the police hope to learn something about Mrs. Dennis, because of his long acquaintance with her and her business affairs, is expected to arrive in this city at 7 o'clock this morning on the steamer from Norfolk, Va. Mr. Hay has known Mrs. Dennis in a professional capacity for sixteen years. He has attended much of her business at various times. It is hardly expected, however, that he can throw any light on the assault upon her.

A Woman Who Screamed.
As a precaution, the police are trying to discover who was the woman who screamed just before daylight Tuesday morning in the neighborhood of the Dennis dwelling. It is hardly believed that Mrs. Dennis left her residence at all on the night of the assault, especially at such an hour as that when screams were heard. In this connection the police are also working to learn who was the man seen in the park by Dr. Hoot, after midnight Tuesday morning. Dr. Hoot stated that a man and a woman appeared to be quarreling, as he believed, on the porch of his residence, near Thirteenth Street and New York Avenue northwest.

Detective Evans has seen twenty-three witnesses employed by Mrs. Dennis, as dressmakers. None of them could offer any clue to the mystery of the assault. A list of these women has been prepared, and is kept at Headquarters. The statements of some of them have been released to writing.

Major Sylvester is doing everything possible to clear up the case. He has worked personally for hours. Last night he said there was nothing new to offer.

EX-LIEUTENANT IS DEFIANT.

Danielson Willing to Fight Former Commanders After January 1.

PARIS, Dec. 13.—Ex-Lieutenant Danielson, who has been removed from the French navy for disrespectful and flippant writings on the service, announces that he will go on the stage.

He says that he is a friend of M. Le Baray, the great French actor, and he has posted a notice in the Cafe Rotonde, at Toulouse, declaring that he is at the service of all naval commanders who wish to fight a duel with him after January 1.

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Look at Yourself
Is Coffee Slowly Killing You?

If you are a coffee drinker examine yourself very carefully indeed. It will pay you big returns for the examination.

If you find that in the weeks and months past you have been suffering small or great aches or pains anywhere in the body, no matter whether in the leg, body, heart, or head, you may depend upon it that the root of the trouble is an unbalanced, disordered nervous system, caused wholly or in greater part by coffee drinking.

Remember the nerves traverse the entire body, and when they are out of order convey their trouble to some one or more parts. No living being can tell just where the nerves will deposit the trouble, but it is certain they will place it somewhere in one or more organs.

In some cases disease is slowly built up, for instance, in the kidneys, or in the brain or perhaps in the bowels, and does not make any violent show for weeks or months, but it is being piled in slowly and surely, so that when enough diseased cells are built to make a showing the trouble is so far gone that many times it is impossible to recover.

The only safe pathway for anyone who cares for health to throw off the poisonous drug coffee as soon as you find some evidence of incipient disease, shown by aches or ails or uncomfortable feelings anywhere in the body.

Highly organized people are distinctly poisoned by coffee and think it hard to give up the drug (for it is a drug habit). It is really no task whatever to rid one's self of coffee; if one will take on Postum Food Coffee the result of the change will be so pleasing in point of good, healthy, comfortable feeling that one in well repaid, particularly when there is no self-denial, for the taste of Postum Food Coffee is so clearly marked and delicious when it is properly prepared (and that is easy) that the change from the old coffee is not noticeable.

Stop drinking when it is small and you are able to stop it. If you allow it to grow it will master you. Postum Food Coffee offers a pleasant and sure way to conquer and be well.

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SAN RAFAEL WRECK FOUND.
Ferryboat Discovered Lying in Twenty Fathoms of Water.
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 13.—There is little doubt that the wreck of the ferryboat San Rafael has finally been found.
For the last twelve days, Henry P. Rogers, of the California Wrecking Company, has been employed in searching for the wreck. Today he found the wreck in twenty fathoms of water, about three-eighths of a mile due south of the light on Alcatraz Island, and about one-quarter of a mile from the spot where the collision between the Sausalito and the San Rafael took place.
Grapppling chains came up marked by green and white paint from the steamer's rail. Tomorrow divers will go down.

SPANKED SON IN COURT.
Mother Puts Lid on Her Knee and Uses Shingle.
BUFFALO, Dec. 13.—Albert Schunk's mother secured his release from imprisonment this morning by appearing in the Surrogate Court, and saying that she could punish him adequately.
The lad is fifteen years old, and large for his age, but when Justice Rochford told Mrs. Schunk he would release her son if she spanked him hard, the mother secured a shingle, put her big boy across her knee, and spanked him until the youth howled for mercy.
Scores of spectators witnessed the proceedings. Schunk was released. He had been arrested for corner lounging.

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